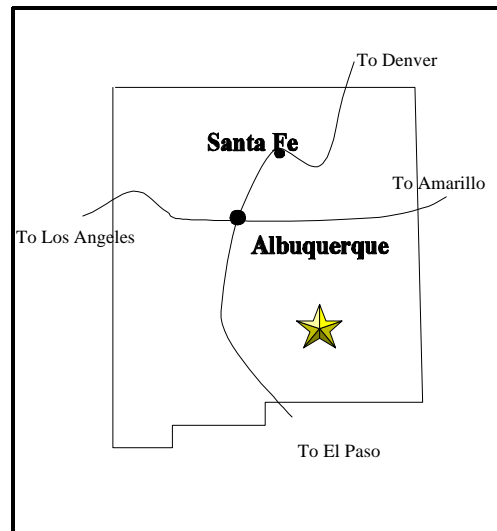


Mescalero Apache Tribe

Solid Waste Environmental Office



Thora Walsh-Padilla, Director

[\(mairepa@lookingglass.net\)](mailto:mairepa@lookingglass.net)

Curtis Williams, Assistant Director

Phone: (505) 671-4494 ext. 222

Fax: (505) 671-4637

Location: 200 miles southeast of Albuquerque

Address: P.O. Box 176 Mescalero, NM 88340

Phone: (505) 671-4494

Fax: (505) 671-9191

History: The Mescalero Apaches were one of the groups of Athapascan people who migrated out of Canada into the Southwest. Descendants from the Chiricahua, Lipan, and Mescalero band of Apaches now populate the reservation. Legendary leaders such as Cochise, Geronimo, and Victorio were part of the Chiricahua band of Apaches. The Tribe was recognized under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The Mescalero Apache Tribal Council, composed of a president, vice president, and eight at-large members, serves as the governing body for enrolled tribal members.

Solid Waste: A more in-depth Solid Waste Management Plan was developed in 1997, by consulting firm, Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. utilizing funding from the Indian Health Service. An earlier report has stated that the Tribe has one open dump that is considered a high relative threat to human health and the environment. Groundwater monitoring wells were installed at the dump to determine affects. Results indicated there was no clear contamination of groundwater. The Mescalero dump has not accepted trash since December 1996. The Tribal leadership indicates the Tribe will be developing a landfill for reservation needs in the future. However, the Tribe has a transfer station for disposal of tribal waste. EPA will be working with the tribe, IHS, and BIA to close the open dump and ensure that an alternative solid waste disposal system is in place.